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24 February 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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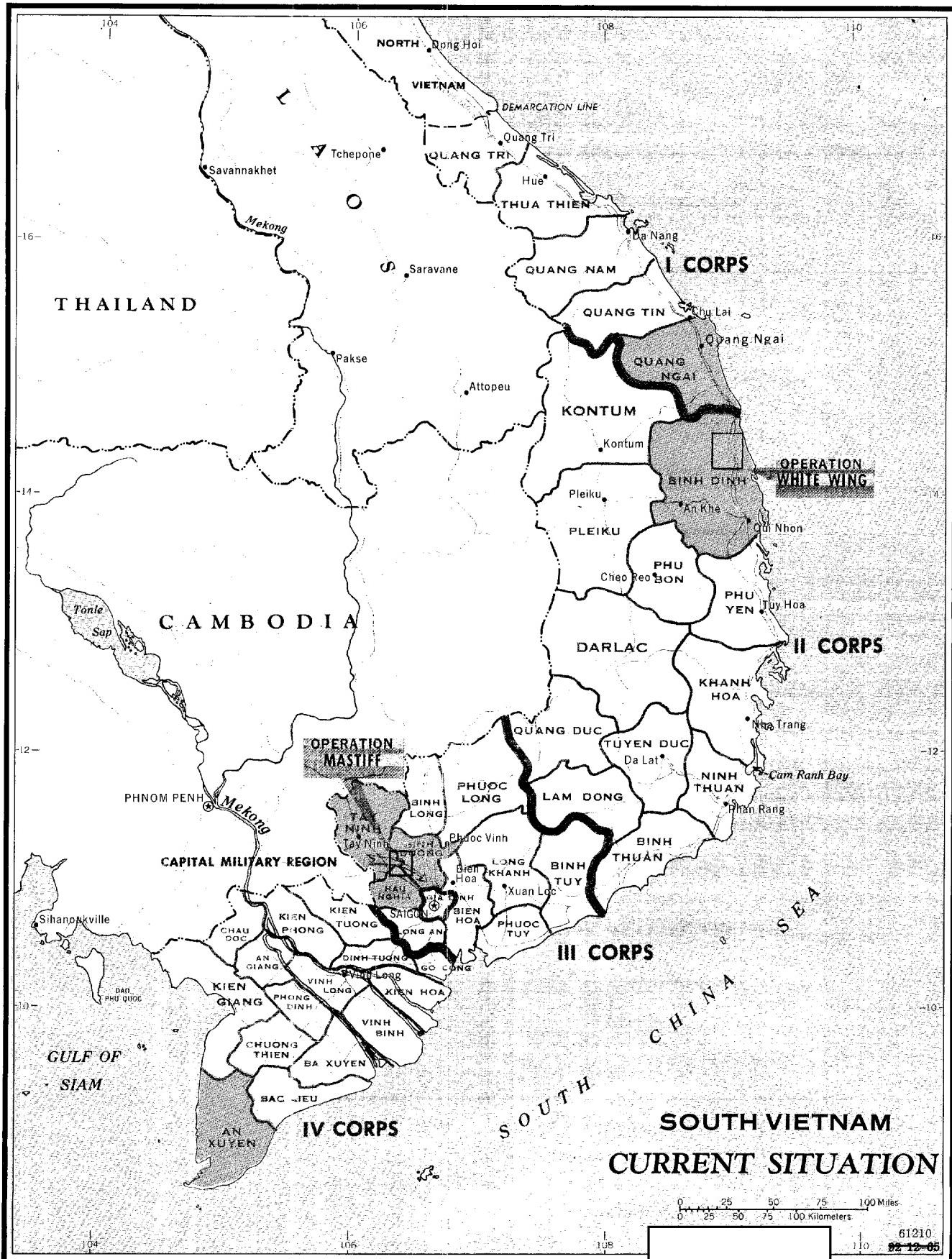
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: South Vietnamese forces operating yesterday in Quang Ngai Province engaged a Viet Cong force of unknown size about 13 miles south of the provincial capital. During the subsequent four-hour battle, government troops sustained casualties of 100 killed or missing and 32 wounded (2 US). An estimated 50 Viet Cong were reported killed.

Stiffer opposition has also been encountered recently by allied forces conducting Operation WHITE WING, now in its fifth week in northeastern Binh Dinh Province. During the past few days, there have been at least two engagements involving Communist forces of battalion strength. Cumulative enemy losses now total 1,605 killed and 386 captured. Allied casualties are 267 killed (146 US), 1,040 wounded (691 US), and 15 US missing.

Allied forces participating in Operation MASTIFF, another large search-and-destroy effort initiated on 20 February, reported contacts with enemy platoon and company size units yesterday near the tri-border area of Tay Ninh, Binh Duong, and Hau Nghia provinces. Allied casualties thus far are 13 killed and 83 wounded. Viet Cong losses total 13 killed, five captured, 200 tons of rice, and miscellaneous equipment.

In southernmost An Xuyen Province yesterday, an unknown number of Viet Cong attacked and overran a government outpost, inflicting casualties of 11 killed, 14 wounded, and 14 missing. Viet Cong losses were four killed. A South Vietnamese relief force has reportedly established contact with the Viet Cong in the vicinity of the outpost.

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*Ghana: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

[Long-disaffected army and police officers moved early today to overthrow Nkrumah's radical regime and install a more moderate government while Nkrumah is out of the country on a visit to Peking and Hanoi.]

[Colonel Kotoka, the commander of one of Ghana's two army brigades, announced over Accra radio at 1:00 AM (EST) this morning that the military and police were taking over the government. He declared Nkrumah and all his ministers "dismissed," parliament dissolved, and Ghana's single political party disbanded. He promised to release all political detainees.]

[The announcement followed reports of disturbances, including small arms firing, near the Flagstaff House compound, Nkrumah's residence. Commonwealth military advisers in Ghana have stated that the army's main camp, located on the outskirts of the capital, has been sealed off--presumably by the coup forces--and that the small air force is cooperating in the move. The director of military intelligence is said to have been arrested. However, it is still uncertain whether key elements of the army, notably Nkrumah's personal guard regiment, have been neutralized.]

[Nkrumah reportedly had left Rangoon en route to Peking at the time the coup attempt began. While he might return to Ghana immediately and try to rally loyal forces, it is more likely that he will delay any such move pending indications of a favorable turn of events.]

[The coup attempt appears to be the culmination of many months of plotting]

[] after the coup retired General

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Ankrah--dismissed by Nkrumah last summer--would
be brought back to take command of the military
forces and that a joint constitutional committee of
senior military and police officials would assume con-
trol of the government.]

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*Indonesia: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

[Student partisans of the army resumed large scale demonstrations in Djakarta this morning in an apparently unsuccessful attempt to prevent the installation of Sukarno's new cabinet.]

[Beginning at dawn today, pro-army students blocked major arteries in the city, moving trucks and cars across key intersections and deflating the tires of other cars attempting to pass. By mid-morning, large mobs of students--one group numbering at least 15,000 was observed passing an intersection near the US Embassy--began to converge on the palace. Security forces in the city--army and police--apparently permitted the students to pass in some areas and in others attempted to delay them.]

[At noon, Radio Djakarta announced that the new cabinet had been sworn in. Helicopters are reported to have ferried the government ministers to the palace to avoid the roadblocks and student mobs. At about the same time, elements of an estimated 20,000 students who had assembled at the palace penetrated the grounds and were fired on by palace guards.]

[A group of pro-Sukarno students calling themselves the "Bung Karno vanguard" are also said to be moving toward the palace, raising the possibility of further clashes. In addition, students from Bandung and Bogor have arrived in Djakarta to reinforce the pro-army demonstrators.]

[The city appears to be in a virtual state of siege with tension continuing to mount.]

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Turkey: [Anticipation of the death of ailing President Gursel has intensified the rivalry between army and air force leaders in Ankara. Uncertainties over presidential and military leadership succession led to an alert of military units in the Ankara area earlier this month, and raised the possibility of interservice clashes.]

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[However, there is no evidence that the top military leadership has dropped its opposition to military intervention at this time, and the government is aware that plotting is going on.]

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*Dominican Republic: [Army chief Martinez Arana appears ready to step down as ordered by the President, following a stormy meeting with other military leaders yesterday.]

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Garcia Godoy's reaction to the outcome of the meeting has not yet been reported. Shortly afterward, however, he cancelled a scheduled radio and television broadcast to the nation in which he had hoped to announce a solution to the continuing civilian-military impasse.]

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